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Digest

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Two Sams Make The B & F

I ONCE asked Sam Fine, in a jocular mood, why he and Sam did not call their circuit the S & S, and he replied it was better to call it the B & F since their motto in show business is "Be First".

Reviewing the career of the two Sams, there appears to be nothing which they have missed, for they always *have* been first in building their circuit of theatres, slowly but solidly. They have never reached out for Forbidden Fruit, but have planted their little acorns to make mighty oaks grow.

Personal Contact

Both Sams have the theatre inspection habit; a desire, when the day's work is done, to get into a car and make a tour of their theatres, to visit with their managers for an exchange of ideas, and incidentally to learn at first hand what makes the box-office tick.

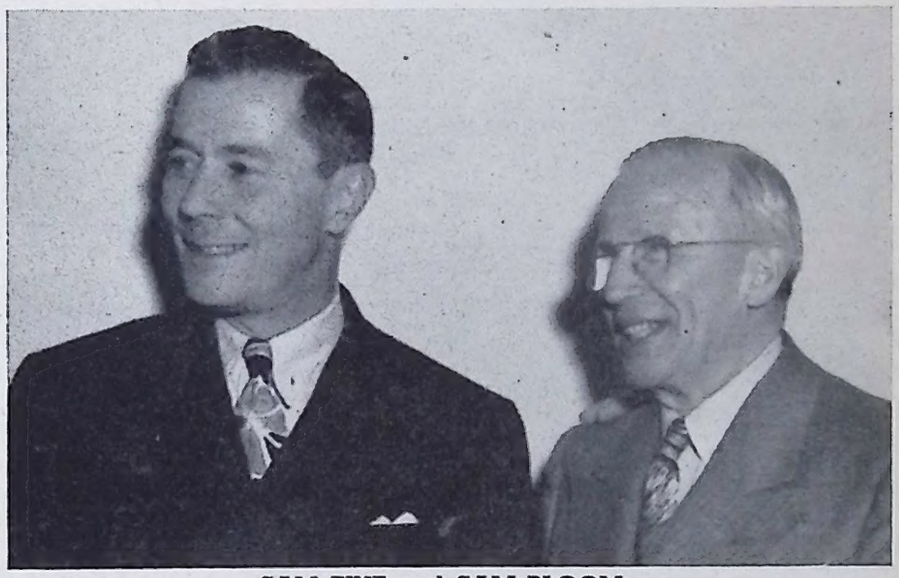
Sam Bloom and Sam Fine are pioneer showmen, both are members of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, both have been in Motion Pictures since the early days of the silent film.

As a subsidiary company of Famous Players Canadian Corp., Sam Fine and Sam Bloom operate the B & F circuit, which comprises twenty neighborhood theatres in the city of Toronto. As executives of the B & F, they both can tell tales of individual theatre operation, not only in Toronto, but reaching out into what was then the tall timbers.

In 1911, Sam Fine operated a theatre called the Empress, near the corner of Dundas and Yonge in Toronto, on the very site where the present Biltmore Theatre stands. He sold this theatre to Besvenick and Jenks, who operated the Empress for some time, but subsequently sold the property, and it became what was then known as a poolroom.

Feather Showman

Sam Fine, with a feather in his cap for having made a good deal, decided that there was money in plumes and organized the Royal Feather Company, which dealt exclusively in ostrich plumes. Being a showman, it is quite possible that he exploited the idea of the Royal Insignia of the three plumes, "Ich Dien" in this period. Having feathered his nest, he again went into show business and leased a theatre in London, just across the street from the site of the present Palace Theatre in that Ontario city. The late Frank Myers took this theatre over from Sam Fine and Sam came to Toronto, where he bought a theatre called the Belmont, on St. Clair Ave., which is now named the Royal George.



SAM FINE and SAM BLOOM

The Partnership is Formed

Another theatre, called the Christie, on St. Clair Ave., Toronto, was operated jointly by Sam Fine and the Allen brothers during the first World War, and after three years together, the Allens sold their interest in the Christie to Sam Fine, who, joining with Sam Bloom in theatre operation, formed a circuit of the Christie, the Academy, the La Plaza and Century theatres.

Sam Bloom had been operating the Academy Theatre for his mother for several years; and it may truly be said that Sam Bloom received his first lessons in showmanship from his mother.

Mrs. Bloom a Real 'Showman'

Mrs. Bloom, whom all old-timers will remember, was one of our smartest operators, as well as being a fine, motherly, charitable soul who, in making her never-ending collections for many charities, was said to be able to "get blood from a stone".

I can remember Mrs. Bloom coming into Clair Hague's office at Universal, where I was getting a story for The Digest about Universal's big hit picture, with Lon Chaney, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame". Those were the days when a picture which cost a million dollars to produce was termed, "Colossal" — "Stupendous" — "Unprecedented" — "Mammoth" and, having used up all the colossal words in the dictionary, the publicity ran to "The Super of Supers".

Mrs. Bloom came into the office breathless. "Why didn't you sell me that picture Clair? A fine friend you are. Give me that picture for tonight." "What picture?" asked Clair Hague,

(*Continued on Page* 10)

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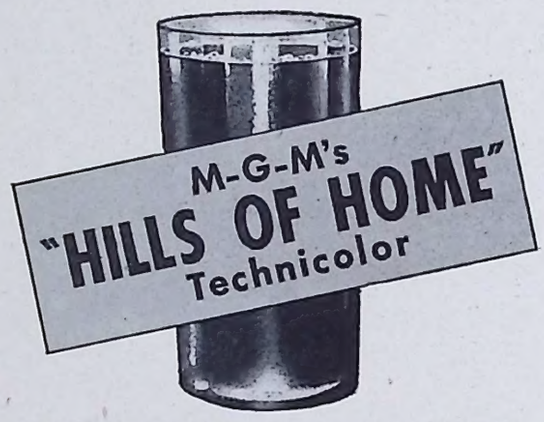
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
277 VICTORIA STREET · TORONTO

"FILL 'EM UP!"

"Fill 'em up at THANKSGIVING!"

(The State, N. Y. record-breaker, a simultaneous Thanksgiving sensation!)

M-G-M presents Alexandre Dumas' "THE THREE MUSKETEERS" Starring LANA TURNER, GENE KELLY, JUNE ALLYSON, VAN HEFLIN, ANGELA LANSBURY, FRANK MORGAN, VINCENT PRICE KEENAN WYNN, JOHN SUTTON, GIG YOUNG • Color by TECHNICOLOR • Screen Play by Robert Ardrey • Directed by GEORGE SIDNEY • Produced by PANDRO S. BERMAN • An M-G-M Picture



"Fill 'em up at CHRISTMAS!"

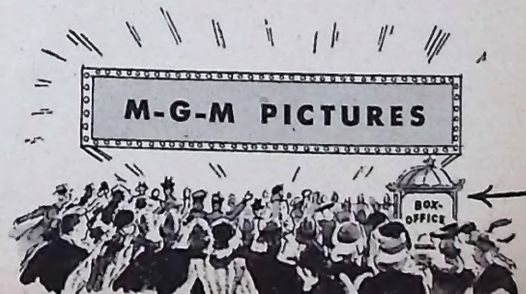
(Next at Radio City Music Hall and America's perfect Xmas show!)

M-G-M presents "HILLS OF HOME" • Starring EDMUND GWENN DONALD CRISP, TOM DRAKE, JANET LEIGH, and LASSIE • Color by TECHNICOLOR • Original Screen Play by William Ludwig • Suggested by The Ian Maclaren Sketches "Doctor of the Old School" • Directed by FRED M. WILCOX • Produced by ROBERT SISK • An M-G-M Picture

"Fill 'em up at NEW YEARS!"

(Happy New Year at Radio City Music Hall and across the nation!)

M-G-M presents "WORDS AND MUSIC" • Starring JUNE ALLYSON PERRY COMO, JUDY GARLAND, LENA HORNE, GENE KELLY MICKEY ROONEY, ANN SOTHERN with Tom Drake, Cyd Charisse Betty Garrett, Janet Leigh, Marshall Thompson, Mel Torme, Vera-Ellen Color by TECHNICOLOR • Based on the Lives and Music of Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart • Screen Play by Fred Finklehoffe • Story by Guy Bolton and Jean Holloway • Adaptation by Ben Feiner, Jr. • Musical Numbers Directed by Robert Alton • Directed by NORMAN TAUROG Produced by ARTHUR FREED • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture



Metro Cola hits the spot!

"Fill 'em up all year 'round"

RAY PRESENTS

ON Dec. 3rd, Famous Players Canadian Corp. will open a new theatre, the Paramount, at Peterboro; and again, we in Canada, as citizens or residents have the advantage of another beautiful show house for our Entertainment.

The Hydro blackouts in Toronto and in different parts of Ontario have not added to the joys of theatre operation, since some period of the blackout killed the first show, for those theatres which were not equipped to generate their own electricity.

Business generally has been flattened, for the cut-off between four and five has finished the day for many Exchange offices, and has impeded a speedy clean-up of the year's work for 1948.

Merchants have felt the cut-offs as keenly, and it was with great satisfaction that we learned that the morning cut-off from nine to ten was eliminated, and that the cut-off in the evenings, has, for a few weeks at least, been terminated.

POLITICIANS have made full use of the Hydro Electric shortages to blame the other fellow; and it is possible that Hydro cutoffs may make an impression on election day.

The surplus of well over a half a billion dollars buoyed up the hope of tax-payers that a reduction in income taxes might be forthcoming, but when we read a statement which talked about providing for a rainy day with substantial treasury reserves, and plans for building our defence services, we started preparing ourselves against dying from the joy of hearing good news, and girding up our loins for come what may.

The numerous strikes which tied up freight, express, sea-going vessels, cargoes, etc., were not a stimulant to holiday business, but being show folks, we never despaired and were glad to hear of their settlement.

I was glad to see that so fine a picture as "The Search" had its third run at the International Cinema, Toronto, and to hear that "Shoe Shine", had a banner week at the Rialto in Winnipeg and was held over for a second week.

GOLDWYN'S "The Best Years Of Our Lives" lined up patrons at the Odeon, Toronto, for five weeks and was replaced by the Eagle-Lion picture, "Dulcimer Street", a J. Arthur Rank production from the best selling novel "London Belongs To Me", starring Richard Attenborough, an old favorite in Canada, Alistair Sim, Fay Compton, Stephen Murray.

At Shea's, Toronto, "June Bride" with Bette Davis and Robert Montgomery filled the theatre with patrons and with laughter. Incidentally, this theatre advertises "no cut-offs". Shea's is generating its own electric power.

At the Royal Alexandra, Brian Doherty's "The Drunkard" was presented with all the fun and merriment of the good old days. The audience is invited to cheer the hero and to hiss the villain. Since our generation has no inhibitions, the cheering and the hissing were worked to the limit, all of which the audience enjoyed so much, the play comes back to the "Alec" for a run at Christmas.

The stage production should create audience interest in the Alliance Picture "Gaslight Follies" which presents in a motion picture "The Drunkard", with all the trimmings, plus a short version of "East Lynne" and a March of Time of the Screen's most famous old-time stars.

"APARTMENT FOR PEGGY" continues merrily at the Imperial and 20th Century-Fox have another "Sitting Pretty" winner. Which reminds me that if I do not happen to see Tom Daley, all of the Maritime Provinces wish to be remembered to him personally.

"Road House" at Eglinton and Tivoli was in its third week. Cast includes, Ida Lupino, Celeste Holm, with Richard Widmark as its top star.

Universal has a real thriller at the Uptown, the locale of which is the Orient. The plot of the story is directed towards a man-hunt. Dick Powell, Marta Toren, Vincent Price keep "Rogues Regiment", moving swiftly to a climax which will either curdle your blood into a freeze-up, or send it pounding against your temples.

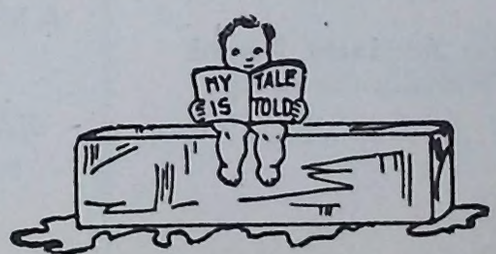
"Hamlet", that much discussed Laurence Olivier picture, opened in Toronto at the new Odeon Hyland.

HAVING seen "Hamlet" previously, I was interested to discover what my reactions to this motion picture would be when the surprise of its first viewing was over. Having seen Hamlet a second time, I can but report, the picture is as great as I previously said it was; and I could see it again a third time to forget its enjoyment and to study the development and presentation of its thrilling language and drama, the smoothness and tenseness of its mechanical devices and the reason for the spell which its photography casts.

"Hamlet" will do our Industry much good. It is an excellent ambassador. We should rejoice in its production; and we should give it our united support, similar to the support which our entire Industry gave to David Selznick's masterpiece, "Gone With The Wind".

BOSWELL CROWLEY, in the Nov. 21st New York Times has devoted two columns to a comparison of "Joan of Arc" and " Henry V". His comparison would make an excellent lecture for a University group, but despite the fact that he ends up giving "Henry V" more points, I am waiting with anticipated pleasure to see Ingrid Bergman as "Joan of Arc", and to see what Walter Wanger and Victor Fleming pictorially produced. This epic is at the Victoria Theatre, Broadway, where it is being presented continuously.

You and I have been of the opinion that the stage had made a real comeback, that the continent-wide interest in Little Theatres was becoming a growing threat to Motion Pictures. What do you make of a story by Brooks Atkinson in the New York Times which starts off with this dismal pronouncement "Alarmed by the shrinkage in business, the theatre industry will hold a general symposium next January to study the problem and to hear proposals for a solution. At a time when employment is unprecedentedly high in the country as a whole, more than 80% of the professional actors are unemployed and the same situation obtains in one degree or another in all the allied professions and crafts. This has been the most disastrous season in some years."



Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

TWO representatives of the theatre business had a large part in the negotiations with hydro-electric and civic officials in connection with difficulties which confronted many exhibitors because of the power blackouts.

These spokesmen were Morris Stein, Eastern division manager of Famous Players Canadian Corp., and Arch H. Jolley, executive-secretary of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario. They were identified with a committee of radio and advertising men which met with the authorities to discuss the emergency. Eventually the Toronto cut-offs were reduced to one hour daily commencing at four o'clock.

Some neighborhood exhibitors had reported to the association that receipts had dropped as much as 50 per cent because of curtailed evening shows and the general confusion among householders.

* * *

Building and fire inspectors have been on the job to check the installations of electric power generators in theatres and other places to offset the uncertainty of the public service. Gasoline units cannot be installed in any building except a public garage or on the roof of any building. There are restrictions on the storage of gasoline and oil for the operation of Diesel engines, the exhaust pipes from which must extend beyond the roof of the building and not within 20 feet of any window or door.

Theatre proprietors should bear in mind that the use of gasoline lamps is prohibited in the case of buildings where the public assembles.

* * *

Archie Laurie of Canadian Odeon reports that the advance sale is terrific for the roadshow engagement of "Hamlet" at the new Odeon-Hyland Theatre at Yonge and St. Clair Avenue, Toronto. It is understood that the house has been practically sold out until Christmas.

* * *

Throughout Ontario most juveniles made use of the school holiday on Nov. 26 to take in a picture show. The celebration was in honor of the Royal Prince who was recently born to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. The theatres lost out where matinee performances had been cancelled because of the power interruptions.

Won Academy Award While in the Army

David Miller, director of Paramount's new Bing Crosby picture, "Top O' The Morning", won an Academy Award for his direction of "Seeds of Destiny", documentary short, while he was serving in the Army.

Various municipalities are going to have a Boxing Day holiday after all, even though Christmas this time falls on a Saturday. Toronto has taken the lead in proclaiming a holiday for Monday, Dec. 27.

Most theatres enjoy big business on Boxing Day — to make up for the paucity of patrons in the pre-Christmas period.

* * *

The suburban Rex Theatre at London experienced the loss of its safe through damage and $100 cash by theft when burglars paid a nocturnal visit to the theatre. They left their tools by way of partial exchange.

* * *

"Men Are Not Gods", which had been produced in England in 1937, finally saw the light of the screen for its Canadian premiere when it played the Hollywood Theatre, Toronto, on a double bill. The other feature was "Green Grass of Wyoming", later replaced by, "Arch of Triumph".

* * *

After experiencing a setback in the horse show of the Canadian National Exhibition, Charlie Mavety came through as the first-prize winner in the Palomino class at the Royal Winter Fair with his entry from the Circle M Ranch.

* * *

Granada Films, an independent exchange, has opened an office in the "Film Centre" at 130 Carlton Street, Toronto . . . Famous Players Canadian Corp. declared a 25c dividend on its common shares for the final quarter of 1948, payable Dec. 24, thus maintaining the annual $1 rate which has prevailed in recent years.

* * *

His many friends in Toronto will regret to learn that M.A. "Manny" Brown has resigned as Paramount branch manager at Buffalo, N.Y., after service of many many years. Manny started his trade career in Toronto and managed to keep up personal contact by occasional visits here.

Say it
with a greeting in
THE DIGEST
for
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Special $10 Greeting
This Size

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Entered as Second Class Matter
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BRUCE PEACOCK.....Regina, Sask.
JACK DROY.....Vancouver, B.C.
WILL McLAUGHLIN.....Ottawa, Ont.
BILL PRESS.....Toronto, Ont.

Giveaways made their appearance at Shea's Theatre, Toronto, when the first 100 customers on the opening day of "Sealed Verdict" received copies of the book . . . I. H. Allen, chief of Astral Films, has announced the appointment of Martin Bockner, formerly of Toronto, as manager of the Astral branch at Winnipeg. Bockner had previously been with United Artists in the Manitoba Capital.

* * *

The Police Association of Hamilton is staging its annual benefit concert at the Palace Theatre on the night of Dec. 15. . . The Church Army of the Anglican Church in Canada has publicly thanked J. Arthur Rank for the making of a film, "Mankind Concerned", for its use in this country.

* * *

G. Cook has remained as manager of the Montcalm Theatre, Hull, Que., which was recently acquired by Famous Players Canadian Corp. from Louis Bisson of Hull . . . The re-appointment of A. Davidson Dunton of Montreal as chairman of the CBC Board of Governors for a second term of three years indicates that the Crown company will make no change in policy with respect to government control of television in Canada.

"Northwest Stampede" To N.Y. Opening

"Northwest Stampede", Eagle-Lion Films Cinecolor outdoors action romance, will have its New York premiere at the Globe Theatre on Broadway and 46th Street, Saturday December 11. The film co-stars Joan Leslie, James Craig and Jack Oakie.

Photographed entirely on location near Calgary, "Northwest Stampede" brings to the screen the world-famous Calgary Stampede, greatest of all Western rodeos. Albert S. Rogell produced and directed "Northwest Stampede" from a script by Art Arthur and Lillie Hayward, suggested by Jean Muir's Saturday Evening Post feature, "Wild Horse Roundup".

Film is distributed in Canada by International Film Distributors.

TRADE HEADLINES

20th Century-Fox Negotiating To Buy Into American Broadcasting Corporation

●

J. Arthur Rank Will Produce Four Pictures For United Nations

●

7 Majors Net $60,000,000 for 1948 Estimated Gross to Date 663 Millions

●

20th Rushes One-Reeler on President Truman

●

Paramount To Produce TV Trailers On Future Product if AFM Okays

●

Jack Benny Will Appear In a Sequence Of Hope's Next "My Favorite Redhead"

●

Production Slowdown Indicates Distribution Of More Backlog and Reissues in 1949

●

Telephone TV Films on Horizon Equipment Perfected — Awaiting Set Increase

●

Company Heads Okay TOA Public Relations MPAA Keys Theirs To Use of Screen

●

There Will Be Oscars For Costume Design One for Best in Colour, One for Black and White

●

Selznick Now Talking Deal With EL

●

Paramount Will Buy and Maintain 1949 Ford Sedans for Their Salesmen

Calgary Stampeders Take Over Toronto

Calgary sent five hundred Western rooters in high-heeled boots, ten-gallon hats and chuck wagons to cheer their team in the final round-up with the Ottawa Rough Riders.

What that yippy-ki-yay bunch did to Toronto, the Good, certainly did us good, for the branding iron sizzled its way into our hearts. Torontonians joined in the cowboy songs, the square dances and sang "Home On The Range" as they have never sung it before.

In front of the Royal York Hotel the chuck-wagons lined up for the parade to the City Hall, but just to show that the chuck-wagons were useful, a stove on one of the wagons cooked flap-jacks and bacon, western style, and the crowd reached out for this western delicacy like a crowd of school-boys let loose from school.

Western horses, cowboys and girls all dressed up like a Calgary Stampede added to the colourful parade, and when His Worship, Mayor McCallum, flashing his red and white ribbons, rode a horse in the parade to the City Hall, just to show the Calgary bunch that he had not forgotten what he once learned on his father's Calgary Ranch, the Calgary officials presented him with a pure white Stetson.

There were more square dances and flap-jacks in front of the City Hall; and before the Calgary rooters were through with their show, all Torontonians were rooting for the Calgary team, including some of our friends from Ottawa who came with their team to cheer them on to victory.

The parade was led by the De La Salle School band, with a colour party of cowboys carrying the flags of Canada, the United States and the Province of Alberta, followed by cowboys, cowgirls and Indians.

At the Varsity Stadium for the East-West Final, there was not an inch of space left, close to 20,000 spectators shouted themselves into a whispering voice by the time the game was finished, giving Calgary 12 to 7.

Talk about exploitation, putting on a show, showmanship, the Calgary Stampeders made history in Toronto and staged the Show of Showmanship for the Calgary team. Toronto will not soon forget their visit, and we only hope that they take back to Calgary as warm a feeling of friendship for us, as they left with us for the Call of the West.

"Peggy" Wins Minister's Praise in Vancouver

During the run there of "Apartment for Peggy", the new 20th-Fox family smash hit, Jack Randall, manager of the Strand Theatre in Vancouver received the following letter from a prominent United Church Minister in that west coast city:

Dear Sir:—

Let me express my appreciation of your picture "Apartment for Peggy". The philosophy underlying it is desperately needed in our time. I took occasion to refer to the picture and theatre by name in my sermon last Sunday morning, which was broadcast over CKWX.

You might be interested to know that a student at our University, who was in precisely the same situation as the student in the picture, happened to be listening in and wrote to tell me that as a result he had decided to stay with his dream and continue his studies at the University.

May there be more pictures of that type.

With best wishes.

Cordially yours,

GERALD B. SWITZER.

Paramount To Run "Dead Man" In April

Paramount has scheduled "I Married A Dead Man", newly purchased story property, for production in April, and assigned John Farrow as director and Richard Maibaum as producer of the film. A top cast is planned for the melodrama by William Irish recently published by J. B. Lippincott Co. Farrow and Maibaum directed and produced "The Big Clock" one of Paramount's 1948 successes.

« Prairie News »

By BRUCE PEACOCK

THE RKO record-breaker, "Best Years of Our Lives" played three-a-day for 18 days at the Met in Regina and everybody had praise for it. Many saw the picture three and four times. An estimate is that better than 29,000 of the city's approximately 64,000 people visited the Met. during the picture's run.

* * *

The Olympia Theatre, Assiniboia, Sask., conducted a Northwest Stampede contest in conjunction with the showing of International Film Distributors' "Northwest Stampede," with prizes going to 10 lucky winners. The entrants were asked to write a brief story on what they liked best about a rodeo. Theatre passes were given as prizes.

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

THE almost steady rainfall of the past five days and nights is helping a lot to ease the worries of Ottawa and district theatre managers. The Ottawa Gatineau and Madawaska rivers are beginning to rise again, and if present conditions continue for a few days more the late afternoon and early evening power cut-offs will be reduced, possibly eliminated altogether. So say the men in charge of electric power rationing. And the mild rainy weather, instead of the cold and snow usually associated with late November and early December, have made ideal conditions for theatre-going during the evenings and week-end matinees.

* * *

Evening performances of "The Street With No Name" were cancelled on Wednesday, November 24, to make way for the Winnipeg Ballet at the Capitol Theatre. The 20th Century-Fox semi-documentary drama continued its run the following day.

* * *

The Ottawa Film Council held a meeting during Educational Week, with members devoting the entire session to a study of the various methods which are commonly used as visual aids in teaching. Dr. Carter Storr, chairman of the Film Utilization Committee, demonstrated to the group, which included a number of teachers from local and district schools, how the same subject may be presented through the medium of the sound film and reviewed at leisure by means of film strip. Five films and two strips were shown on various subjects ranging from the prevention of accidents to cultural matters.

* * *

Hugh Parker's Stage Society is still doing business at the LaSalle Academy Theatre on lower Rideau Street. Current bill is "Busman's Honeymoon". Underlined for next week is "Old Acquaintances" . . . "How Right You Are", a radio quizz show sponsored by a local jewelry store, is being broadcast from the stage of the Capitol Theatre every Tuesday night over Station CFRA.

* * *

Recent openings of Odeon's new theatres at Fort William and Port Arthur were of special interest to Ottawa's theatre manager fraternity. Steve MacManus, now at Fort William, was formerly with 20th Century Theatres as manager of the Elgin. Len McGuire, who will manage the Port Arthur house under the district supervision of Steve, was until recently manager of the Somerset Theatre for the Berlin interests. Congratulations from this town go out to Steve and Len, along with best wishes for their success as theatre operators at the Lakehead.

Ray Tubman, manager of the Capitol Theatre, placed the foyer galleries and grand staircase of that ace Famous Players' cinema palace at the disposal of the committee in charge of Educational Week. The space was devoted to artistically arranged displays of school work by Ottawa and district students, which were viewed with interest by Capitol patrons . . . Bob Haydon, a former member of the Ottawa Journal's mechanical department, is at present on tour of the United States as leading tenor with the Boston Grand Opera Company. Bob is starring in the company's presentation of "La Tosca", "La Boheme" and "La Traviata".

* * *

The National Film Board is sponsoring the exhibition of British posters now being held at the Graphics Gallery on Sparks Street. The exhibition was formally opened by Ross McLean, Canadian Government film commissioner, and was attended by representatives of the Labor Department, Department of Health and Welfare, Post Office Department, the United Kingdom information office and Trade Commissioners.

Maritime News

By A. L. FAIRWEATHER

MR. and Mrs. J. M. Franklin of Saint John, accompanied by Herwin Kerwan, manager of the Regent Theatre, Saint John, have left for Miami, Florida where Mr. and Mrs. Franklin will spend the winter. They expect to stop in New York for a few days en route. During the absence from the Regent of Mr. Kerwan, that theatre will be managed from the Mayfair Theatre by Mitchell Franklin and S. Babb.

* * *

Mrs. E. Fournier of the Acadia Theatre, St. Leonards, N.B., spent a few days in Saint John. Mrs. Fournier was among the women theatre managers attending the Maritime Allied Exhibitors' Association in Saint John but was called away by illness in her family and returned later to finish up her dating with the Saint John Exchanges.

* * *

Cyril Beasley, operator at the Regent Theatre, took some very excellent photographs of the annual meeting of the Maritime Exhibitors at the Admiral Beatty Hotel and many exhibitors took these photos home as souvenirs of the delightful occasion.

* * *

The manager and staff of the Paramount Theatre, Saint John, are busy, as are all theatres in the Maritimes who use them, promoting the sale of Christmas gift tickets. Posters advertising the tickets are displayed in lobbies and plugged in newspaper ads.

* * *

George Walters, manager of the F. G. Spencer Company Ltd. theatres at Charlottetown, P.E.I., was chairman of a campaign to raise funds for the Salvation Army on the Island for their fine work . . . C. G. Fraser, manager of the same circuit's Capitol and Royal at Truro, N.S., was in Saint John recently and spent some time at the Head Office of the Company.

James McLaggan, manager of the Casino Theatre at Halifax, N.S., was on a motor trip for his vacation and paid a visit to A. I. Garson at the head office of Odeon Theatres at St. John. Mr. McLaggan planned to tour the Maritimes and possibly get as far as Boston for his holiday. Theatre is managed during his absence by Henry de Voe.

* * *

The Strand Theatre, Saint John, has dated a showing of "Carnegie Hall" and put quite an extensive exploitation campaign out for the feature, using personal reviews of the film and large newspaper ads . . . The Paramount Theatre, Saint John (Famous Players, F. Harrison Howe manager), is making great preparations for the showing of W-B's "Johnny Belinda", the locale of which is in Cape Breton, N.S. There will be a tie-up with several stores and special notices on the radio and in the press for this film which has enjoyed such favourable reviews.

* * *

F. Gordon Spencer, as a vice-president of the sponsoring association is very active in the T.B. Seals campaign. Mitchell Franklin of the Franklin-Herschorn Chain has been doing a great deal of publicity assisting the Saint John Medical Association on their campaign for the spread of information regarding diabetes . . . Trailers for the T.B. Christmas Seals are on practically all screens in the Maritimes.

* * *

Much gratification was expressed in the Maritimes and especially in Saint John over the fine account of the city given by the Digest Editor and it is felt Ray Lewis should be added to the Government Tourist Bureau officials for her concise and at that, glowing description of the city . . . The Capitol Theatre at Chipmen, N.B., has been used as a meeting place for several organizations' political gatherings.

Quebec Division Of Pioneers Elects Bill Singleton President

The Quebec Division of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, at its November meeting held in Ruby Foo's Montreal, elected and installed the following officers: Hon. President, L. E. Ouimet; President, W. J. Singleton; 1st Vice-president, William Lester; 2nd Vice-president, A. St. Germain; Secretary, Irving Sourkes; Treasurer, W. Elman. Nine directors were installed including one from Sherbrooke, R. Vallee, and one from Quebec, H. Vance. George Ganetakos, Arthur Hirsch and Ben Norrish were installed as trustees, with Ganetakos as chairman.

Organized Several Years Ago

The Quebec Division was first organized when the Toronto officers visited Montreal several years ago, including the late Clair Hague, the then National President. Among the early members of the Quebec division are: J. Belson, C. K. Sperdakos, Hilly Cass, Joe Tremblay, Tom Dowbiggin, Graydon Matthews, Raymond Jouge, Sam Jacobs, William Lester, H. Marcoux, Bill O'Loghlin, Arthur Quintal, William J. Singleton, Irving Sourkes, Albert Bey, E. N. Tabah, Wilfred Coutu, Bill O'Reagan, Eddie English, Arthur Hirsch, Arthur Larente, John Levitt, D. Allan Murray, D. Paquin, John P. Reidy, David Berzan, J. A. St. Germain, Thomas Cleary, Harold Vance, William Elman, George Ganetakos, Walter Hoffman, N. N. Lawand, Frank Makarios, B. E. Norrish, Ernest Ouimet, Lou Rosenbloom.

During a recent visit to Montreal by the National President, The Hon. J. Earl Lawson, a pep talk was delivered to the Quebec division and Mr. Lawson, surveying the field for good pioneer material, set into action preparations for the annual meeting, with such excellent results as the formation of a new, strong executive with active subcommittees, and the acceptance of 32 new applications for membership. To the lengthy list of previous pioneer members, the following new members have been added:

J. W. Campbell, J. M. Alexander, M. Metsger, J. M. DeRoussy, Ray Berzan, Gordon Dahn, John Rosenberg, Paul Guenette, Eddie Schreider, Mort Prevost, Jim Pearson, Leonard Jones Joe Dorfman, G. Delorme, A. Lawand, Oscar Richards, John Ganetakos, Romeo VanDette, William Trow, Thomas Trow, Tom Conway, Alex Adilman, B. Lafontaine, A. E. Fassio, Ovila Cote, L. Archambault, R. L. Vallee, Harold Mason, N. Lazanis, A. Rosenberg, Leo Choquette and H. Hurteau.

Officers Active in Industry

The officers and the chairmen of the various committees are all men who are active in our industry, and include important executives. The committee heads, all of whom are directors, are: Membership — E. English; Finance — A. Adilman; Sick Visiting — Louis Rosenbloom; Money-Raising Projects — Tom Dowbiggin; Entertainment — A. Quintal; Publicity — Tom Cleary.

Under the presidency of Bill Singleton, who has a reputation for always being "on the job", and who always follows through to a successful finish anything he undertakes to do, it looks as if the Quebec Division will soon be riding neck-and-neck with the other Canadian divisions who have done so much good work for our industry though their social, fraternal and benevolent services.

We congratulate the Quebec Division on the success of their November meeting, and send our best wishes to all the officers and members for a successful and full year of activity.

Silent Star Has Role

Gertrude Aster, silent-screen queen, has a brief character role in "Montana" at Warner Bros.

Barbara Ann Will Tour Following Roxy Debut

Barbara Ann Scott will make a theatre tour of the United States following her professional debut in N.Y. Dec. 22, it was announced today by Music Corporation of America, her agents. The cities in the tour have not yet been decided.

The pretty blonde sweetheart of Canada, who holds both the world and Olympic figure-skating titles, is making her debut in an ice show at the Roxy Theatre in N.Y. The Roxy booking, in which she headlines the Christmas holiday show, is expected to last four or five weeks.

Warners' Gil Golden To Handle Publicity

Gil Golden, advertising manager of Warner Bros., has been named advertising and publicity director of the Motion Picture Division for Brotherhood Week, of which Ned E. Depinet, president of RKO-Radio Pictures, is chairman. Golden accepted the appointment of the Advertising and Publicity Directors Committee of the Motion Picture Association of America.

Brotherhood Week, which is under the auspices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, is February 20 27.

Pioneers Meet in Montreal For Installation of Officers

Earl Lawson, National President, addresses the meeting of the Quebec Division of the Canadian Picture Pioneers held at Ruby Foo's on Wednesday, November 17th. Seated beside him at the head table are J. Arthur Hirsch, Trustee; W. J. (Bill) Singleton, newly installed President; L. E. Ouimet, Honorary President.

Looking well fed after the meal are, standing, left to right: W. Singleton, President; W. Elman, Treasurer; T. Dowbiggin, Special Events; J. A. Hirsch, Trustee; W. Lester, 1st Vice-President; R. Vallee, Director; T. Cleary, Publicity; I. Sourkes, Secretary. Seated, left to right: A. Adilman, Finance; C. Bourassa, Director; L. E. Ouimet, Hon. President; Earl Lawson, National President; George Ganetakos, Trustee; and Ben Norrish, Trustee.

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

VANCOUVER'S "theatre bandit" struck at the Orpheum for the second time in 10 days and police are of the opinion that it is the same man who now has three holdups to his credit, all in the same downtown block, two at the Orpheum and one at the F-P Capitol. The same methods were used in all three robberies — all were pulled off between five and six p.m. when the streets were crowded with passing people, the written note was passed to each cashier, "Hand over the money or I'll shoot," this time to Mary Brunt, Orpheum cashier. The crook got away with $47. Loss to F-P on the three box office hold-ups is about $175. No arrests have been made to date, police say.

* * *

Sneak previews held at the Odeon-Dunbar and F-P Stanley Theatre here are now a regular weekly feature. Picture titles are not advertised, and previews are proving very popular, and helping to build grosses in both spots on ordinarily slow days . . . The new Port Theatre at Port Coquitlam, B.C., was opened this week. House seats 350, and is one of the finest theatres of its kind in the Fraser Valley. One unique feature is a room where mothers can stay with their babies or leave them under expert care. The only B.C. theatre to date which boasted a cry-room for infants was the E-W Theatre at Courtney. Film managers say that the theatre managers use it when they get the bad news on a new film. Could be?

* * *

The B.C. Censor Board recently classed as adult entertainment the following films: "Cry of the City", "Rope", "Lulu Belle", "Mourning Becomes Electra", "Secret Service Investigator". Theatres have to watch their twin bills closely now as children are denied admission if one picture is labeled "Adult Entertainment Only" . . . Tom Hetherington has purchased a building on the main street of Kaslo in the B.C. interior and will remodel it into a modern moving picture theatre to seat 300. He plans to open it early in the new year.

* * *

Odeon Theatres decided to demolish the old-time suburban Fraser Theatre here. House at present seats 768, and a new and up to date 850-seat theatre is expected to be operating by next spring on the site . . . Harry Simmons, local architect, who built the Odeon at West Vancouver and Odeon Victoria will be in charge of construction of the new South Vancouver Theatre.

Vancouver projectionist George Thrift, a keen fisherman, had a hectic experience Sunday when his 18-foot inboard boat was missing in the Gulf of Georgia. Thrift and two companions were given up for lost in a sudden storm, but were found safe, after being missing for 36 hours. Thrift is projectionist at the Kerrisdale Theatre . . . Harry Howard, owner of Theatre Equipment Supply Company of Vancouver is the proud daddy of a baby daughter. Harry, wife and baby all well at last reports.

* * *

Phillett Bros., who operate a circuit across Western Canada, will open their new Rex Theatre in Flin Flon, Northern Manitoba in December. The old Rex Theatre, which burnt to the ground last February was the town's only movie. New Rex will seat 600 and was built at an estimated cost of around $100,000.

* * *

The Orpheum, F-P downtowner, Vancouver's largest theatre, has installed a new neon sign which is a standout along theatre row here . . . "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein", which was banned by the B.C. censors and turned down by the appeal board, is now in good standing having been approved on appeal to the Attorney-General. Public opinion is in favor of the picture which is playing to capacity at the Vogue Theatre here.

Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

BILTMORE
"The Big Punch" (WB), with Lois Maxwell and Wayne Morris. Also "Blonde Ice" (Astral), with Leslie Brooks and Robert Paige.

DOWNTOWN
"Sofia" (Astral), Cinecolor, with Gene Raymond and Sigrid Gurie. Also "Smuggler's Cove" with Leo Gorcey and the Bowery Boys.

EGLINTON-TIVOLI
3rd week. "Road House" (Fox), with Richard Widmark and Ida Lupino.

FAIRLAWN-DANFORTH
"Snowbound" (EL), with Robert Newton and Dennis Price.

IMPERIAL
2nd week. "Apartment for Peggy" (Fox), with Jeanne Crain and William Holden.

LOEW'S
"Red River", with John Wayne and Montgomery Clift.

NORTOWN-VICTORIA
"The Ox-Bow Incident" (Fox), with Henry Fonda and Dana Andrews. Also "Day-Time Wife", with Tyrone Power and Linda Darnell.

ODEON TORONTO
"Dulcimer Street" (EL), with Richard Attenborough and Fay Compton.

SHEA'S
"Sealed Verdict" (Para.), with Ray Milland and Florence Marly.

UPTOWN
"Rogues Regiment" (UI), with Dick Powell and Marta Toren.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"Northwest Stampede" (Int'l), Cinecolor, with Joan Leslie and James Craig.

IMPERIAL
"The Search" (MGM), with Montgomery Clift and Aline MacMahon.

LOEW'S
2nd week. "The Paradine Case" (SRO), with Gregory Peck and Ann Todd.

PALACE
"Julia Misbehaves" (MGM), with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon.

PRINCESS
"The Fuller Brush Man" (Col.), with Red Skelton and Janet Blair.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"Fury at Furnace Creek" (Fox), with Victor Mature and Coleen Gray.

MAYFAIR
"State of the Union" (MGM), with Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn. Also "The Challenge" (Fox), with Tom Conway.

PARAMOUNT
"So Evil My Love" (Para.), with Ray Milland and Ann Todd.

STRAND
"Captain Boycott" (EL), with Stewart Granger and Kathleen Ryan.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"Escape" (Fox), with Rex Harrison and Peggy Cummins.

GAIETY
2nd week. "Good Sam" (RKO), with Gary Cooper and Ann Sheridan.

METROPOLITAN
"The Noose Hangs High" (Int'l), with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello. Also "Temptation Harbour" (Int'l), with Robert Newton and William Hartnell.

ODEON
5th week. "The Best Years of Our Lives" (RKO), with Fredric March and Myrna Loy.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"Luxury Liner" (MGM), with Jane Powell and Lauritz Melchior.

GRAND
"Relentless" (Col.), Technicolor, with Robert Young and Marguerite Chapman.

PALACE
"Sealed Verdict" (Para.), with Ray Milland and Florence Marly. Also "Big Town Scandal" (Para.), with Phillip Reed and Hillary Brooke.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
2nd week. "Luxury Liner" (MGM), Technicolor, with Jane Powell and Lauritz Melchior.

INTERNATIONAL-CINEMA
2nd week. "The Tawny Pipit" (Fox), with Rosamund John and Bernard Miles. Also "Escape" (Fox), with Rex Harrison.

ORPHEUM
"Rope" (WB), Technicolor, with James Stewart.

PLAZA
"Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid" (UI), with William Powell and Ann Blyth. Also "I Wouldn't Be in Your Shoes" (Mono.) with Don Castle and Elyse Knox.

STRAND
2nd week. "Forever Amer" (Fox), Technicolor, with Linda Darnell and Cornel Wilde.

VOGUE
3rd week. "Tap Roots" (UI), Technicolor, with Van Heflin and Susan Hayward.

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Two Sams Make The B & F

(*Continued from Page* 1)

smiling at Mrs. Bloom, for whom that kindly little man had a real affection, because he thought her such a smart showman. Mrs. Bloom thought a moment. She could not remember the title, but finally, in exultation, she blurted out, "The cripple of the church". I don't know how Clair Hague managed it, but Mrs. Bloom played "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at the Academy that very night, taking the advertising with her.

When Sam Bloom linked his fortunes with Sam Fine, he came in as "a chip off the old block". He was full of ideas and "rarin' to go". In those days, Sam Bloom had a voice which matched his ideas, the sky was the limit, and I remember, when travelling with Sam Bloom and John Brady to Exhibitors' meetings, we often suppressed our Sammy with, "Everything under control, Sam".

Drumming Up Contributions

Harry Alexander and some of the other pioneers will remember the benefit show we gave at Massey Hall, in aid of underprivileged children. Sam went on the stage to make a speech, but as he made his appeal, he grew more and more excited. I was standing close to the orchestra pit and cautioned him that he was moving too close to the edge of the footlights, but Sam was too keyed up with his appeal to hear me, and just when he reached a beautiful climax, he fell off the stage right into the drum, wrecking the drum and landing a kick at the drummer which put him out of commission for the rest of the show. As for Sammy Bloom, was he hurt? Never. He came out of the drum smiling, saw me doubled over with laughter, and shouted a Shakespearean quotation, from Hamlet, "A hit, a palpable hit", which brought down the house.

I had to follow with a speech but I could not stop laughing, not as long as Sam Bloom remained where I could see him, so the boys had to escort Sam Bloom out of my sight, while the audience laughed and applauded. This night made history for the audience responding to laughter, we omitted our sob-story, and Sam Bloom certainly drummed up a banner night's contribution for our fund. The following day, Harry Alexander and I brought over a thousand dollars to the Toronto Daily Star, and delivered it to Mr. Joseph Atkinson Sr., to be distributed for the aid of underprivileged children.

Affiliation With Famous

But here I am, getting lost again on the long road back of memories. It is now over twenty-three years since the two Sams became B & F; since they became affiliated with the Famous Players Canadian Circuit, and added the Mavety Theatre to the theatres which they then operated.

Those were the days when live shows added to box-office receipts, and at the La Plaza and the Mavety a repertoire company presented live shows nightly. Sam Bloom looked the girls over, booked in the acts, and Sam Fine just as likely fired them.

In studying this partnership of Sam Fine and Sam Bloom it is interesting to observe their difference in temperament. Sam Bloom, as you will have gathered from my reminiscences, belongs to the old school of showmanship, which knew and tried all the "get 'em in" stunts that Barnum tried. In his day he could out-shout any salesman who believed that volume in voice production produced volume in sales. Today, Sam Bloom, being a veteran showman, smiles at opposition, and just keeps on smiling, for it is not up to Sammy Bloom today to make picture deals which leave some of the profits sticking to the box-office. The business of buying pictures he leaves entirely to his partner, Sam Fine, who makes a fine and equitable job of it.

Division of Labor

Both Sams have a roving eye for good theatre locations, and, having located a good theatre site, they investigate the location thoroughly before buying a theatre, or building a new one. It is Sam Fine, however who gets his pencil out to write down costs, a return on investment and profits.

Should there be a reconstruction job in progress, or a building job, you can take it for granted that Sam Fine studies the plans carefully, discusses all arrangements with the men on the job, supervises selection of materials and accessories; but Sam Bloom will be on the spot from the laying of the first brick to the opening of the curtain.

A Rabid Picture Fan

I asked Sam Fine why he does not pass some of the strenuous work of buying pictures, of making picture commitments and supervising bookings over to Sam Bloom, to which he replied with a smile, "Sammy is too much of a picture-fan. He loves every picture."

The only time I have ever heard the two Sams in an argument, it was about pictures, not about their cost, but their entertainment value. They are extremely loyal to each other, they respect each other's opinions; and such a harmonious partnership, lasting for so many years, is rare in any business and very rare in our own.

Donlands Their Latest

About ten days ago the two Sams opened their 20th theatre, the Donlands, at Donlands and O'Connor drive in Toronto. It is streamlined, much like another new and beautiful theatre they constructed last year, The Vaughan, at Vaughan Road and St. Clair Ave.

In the B & F circuit there are several partner affiliates, one with Billy Summerville Sr., which includes the operation of the Prince of Wales, the Grover, Eastwood and Gerrard, one with Veto Simone which includes Radio City and the Vaughan, with Harry Alexander in the Lansdowne and Academy, and with Ted Sterling and Ray Lewis in the Pylon Theatre.

Sons in the Business

Both of the Sams have charming wives and families. Sam Fine's oldest son Jack, is now in the buying and booking department of the B & F; Sam Bloom's Son, Martin, is manager of the new Donlands Theatre.

Both are most hospitable and have many friends, both in our Industry and among those who are engaged in other enterprises. Both have a reputation for being sociable and charitable, and both are inclined always to keep the door of their offices, and their homes, open to the little fellow, as well as the more influential visitor — to the friends who knew them when they carried a can of film to their theatre.

At one time I said of Sam Bloom, "There is a showman who could make oranges grow on lemon trees." Sam cherishes that remark and loves to repeat it. Of Sam Fine, I have said, "A showman who looks at the world's tomorrow, before he plans his today."

—THE EDITOR

Adler Will Produce "The Hero" For Columbia

One of the coming season's top story properties, "The Hero", a first novel by Millard Lampell to be published in early spring, has been purchased by Columbia for the company's new young star, John Derek. Buddy Adler will produce.

Derek will first be seen on the screen with Humphrey Bogart in Santana Productions' drama, "Knock On Any Door".

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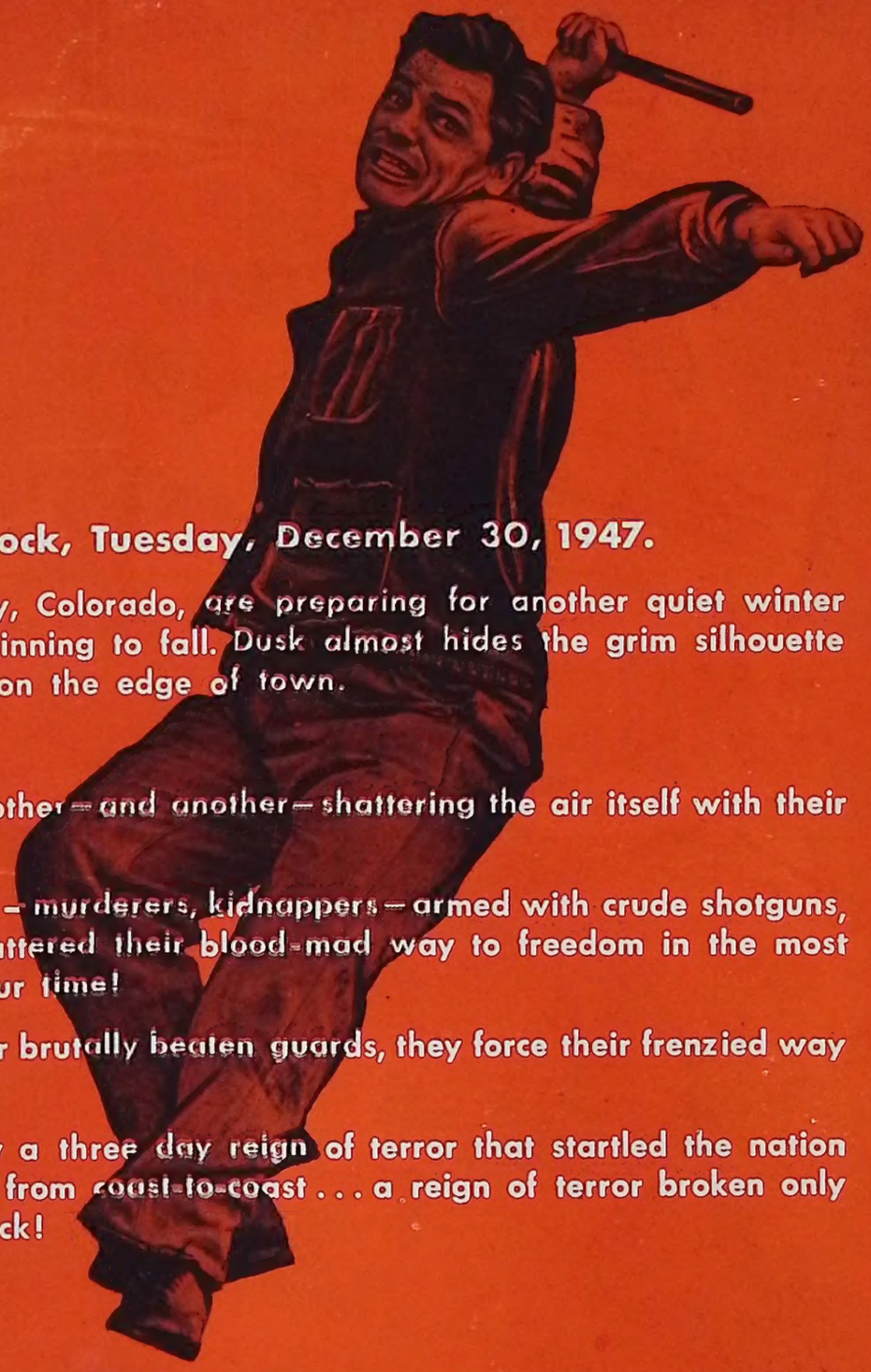

It's five o'clock, Tuesday, December 30, 1947.

The people of Canon City, Colorado, are preparing for another quiet winter evening. Snow is just beginning to fall. Dusk almost hides the grim silhouette of the State Penitentiary on the edge of town.

Suddenly it happens!

A siren screams—then another—and another—shattering the air itself with their terrifying wails.

Twelve desperate convicts—murderers, kidnappers—armed with crude shotguns, clubs and knives have battered their blood-mad way to freedom in the most spectacular jailbreak of our time!

Dragging as hostages four brutally beaten guards, they force their frenzied way into homes at gun point.

Thus began in Canon City a three day reign of terror that startled the nation with screaming headlines from coast-to-coast . . . a reign of terror broken only when the town fought back!

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